

10/512032
DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 20 OCT 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Original claims 1-18 and amended claims 1-18: (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (new): A spinning toy comprising a pair of spaced disc bodies connected by a transverse shaft forming a gap therebetween, a string attached to the shaft in the gap whereby the toy can be spun on the string, and a release mechanism for releasing the attachment of the string on the shaft while the toy is spinning.

Claim 20 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 19, wherein the release mechanism protrudes radially from the circumference of one of the disc bodies and is activated to release the string from the shaft in response to a force on the release mechanism.

Claim 21 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 19, wherein the string is affixed to a spindle that mounts on the shaft and spins thereon.

Claim 22 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 20, wherein the string is affixed to a spindle that mounts on the shaft and spins thereon.

Claim 23 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 21, wherein the release mechanism urges the shaft to move axially to release the spindle from the shaft and thereby allow the string to detach from the shaft.

Claim 24 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 23, wherein one end of the shaft is spring mounted inside one of the disc bodies.

Claim 25 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 23, wherein the spindle is captured between the disc bodies and held therebetween on the shaft, and whereby an axial movement of the shaft widens the gap between the disc bodies, hence releasing the spindle.

Claim 26 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 25, wherein catches in the gap assist in holding the spindle on the shaft.

Claim 27 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 23, wherein the shaft is provided with two different sized diameters, wherein the spindle is attached to the shaft at the larger diameter and axial movement of the shaft exposes the smaller diameter thereby allowing the spindle to detach from the shaft.

Claim 28 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 19, wherein the release mechanism includes a trigger protruding from the circumference of one of the disc bodies and a biased tab moveable in response to movement of the trigger.

Claim 29 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 28, wherein the tab has an elongate or large round opening through which the biased shaft extends and is held therein, whereby movement of the tab releases the shaft to axial movement.

Claim 30 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 28, wherein the trigger is a lever pivoted to the same disc body containing the release mechanism.

Claim 31 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 29, wherein the trigger is a lever pivoted to the same disc body containing the release mechanism.

Claim 32 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 19, further including a clutch engageable with the shaft that prevents axial movement of the shaft, and that disengages from the shaft under centrifugal forces.

Claim 33 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 32, wherein the clutch is weighted and spring mounted to an interior circumference of a disc body.

Claim 34 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 33, wherein the clutch is an elongate arm that is spring mounted to the housing at an approximate center of the arm and has a lug at an approximate center that engages with a complementary slot in the shaft.

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Claim 35 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 30, wherein the trigger pivots approximately 90° in either direction from an extended position to a down position.

Claim 36 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 25, wherein the spindle is a part circular shape that encircles the shaft by approximately 180°.

Claim 37 (new): The spinning toy claimed in claim 27, wherein the spindle is a part circular shape that encircles the larger diameter of the shaft by more than 180° but less than 360°.

Claim 38 (new): A method of using a spinning toy having a pair of spaced disc bodies connected by a transverse shaft forming a gap therebetween, and a string attached to the shaft in the gap, the method including:

spinning the connected disc bodies relative to the string by unwinding the disc bodies from the string;

lowering the spinning disc bodies towards a surface to activate a release mechanism that releases the string from the shaft; and

retaining hold of the string and allowing the disc bodies to freely roll along the surface.